

## The Philadelphia Fire.

From the North American, Saturday.

**THE EXPLOSION AT MR. BROCK'S STORE.**—The Cooper has received the following communication from the Messrs. Brock & Co. in relation to the explosion in the store of Mr. John Brock, on Tuesday afternoon:

JACOB S. HAST, Esq., CORONER.—Sir: In consequence of the recent and enlarged reports in circulation respecting the terrible explosion which occurred in our (Mr. John Brock's) store, attributing the melancholy loss of life to an explosion of gunpowder stored in the building, which had previously been unqualifiedly denied by us, we now present ourselves to your attention, so as to give you all the information in our possession, and to submit to the most rigid examination, not only of ourselves, but of all those in our employment.

Respectfully, JOHN BROCK, Sons &amp; Co.

Philadelphia, July 11, 1861.

The frank, straightforward and honest character of this communication speaks for itself. We can-

not refrain from adding that it reflects the highest

credit upon the elder Mr. Brock, his sons, and the other members of this extensive mercantile house.

With the view of furnishing all the facts, tending

to solve the absorbing question, what caused the explosion we have ascertained from a mem-

ber of the firm whose business veracity and integ-

rity are unquestionable, the following particulars:

The store belonged to John Brock. It was a double

one. The Northern half was occupied by Gordon

&amp; Berger, dry dealers. The Southern half was in

the occupancy of John Brock, Sons &amp; Co. for storage.

The divisions of the store were separated by

a partition wall.

There was stowed in the division of Masses

Brook &amp; Co. about 250 bags of saltpeter, averaging

about 200 pounds each, about 50 barrels of brim-

stone, averaging about 330 pounds each; about 50

hogheads, 12 barrels, and 70 barrels of molasses;

and 91 hogheads of sugar.

The saltpeter and brimstone were on the first or

ground floor, on Water-street, and the molasses and su-

gar on the lower or cellar floor, immediately under-

neath. There was a large hatchway communicating

between these two floors. The hatch was open.

As the saltpeter and brimstone fused, it ran down

through the hatch, and spread among the sugar and molasses.

This was seen by a number of the firemen.

The burning of so large a quantity of sac-

charine matter, rapidly formed carbon, and thus

were brought in contact, at a high state of heat, the three components of gunpowder. Whether this

combustible trio, so near akin to powder, was the

real cause of the explosion, we leave to the sci-

entific world to decide, and the public to judge.

THE LATE CONFLAGRATION has been fraught

with serious consequences to our fire companies,

many of whom have had large quantities of hose

rendered useless by the action of the heat. As an

instance, we may mention that the Schuykill Hose

Company has had about 500 feet of hose so much

injured as to be valueless.

THE WILMINGTON FIREMEN.—The Wilmington,

Del., *Wilmington Journal* says that the fire companies

which came on to the great fire in Philadelphia,

reached home on their return, on Wednesday af-

noon, much fatigued and worn with their exer-

cise. They did valuable and effective service

here, having succeeded in saving one of the finest

houses exposed to danger from the flames.

COMMUNION WITH SPIRITS!—THE MYSTERIOUS

RAFFINGS IN BOSTON!—A communication in the

*Evening Journal* of the 2d inst. says that

Mr. E. G. Cutler, the well known and successful

lecturer on Pathology and Biology, recently visited

New York for the purpose of investigating the mys-

terious exhibition which has been given in that

city for some time past, well known as the "Mys-

terious Raftings." While he was there, he was in

communication with the spirits of persons deceased,

with whom, while living, he was familiar. While

communicating with these spirits, he had the

promise from them that they would grant him an

interview in this city, at a certain time. The time

arrived, and the promised indication of the

presence of the spirits was given, at his residence,

where he was, in company with his wife, and

with the spirits he was familiar.

GEORGE F. FISHER, of the Commercial

Comptroller's Office, State of New York.—The

C. F. Fisher, Esq., Barrister, has this day died in

the office of the Comptroller of the City of New York.

He was a man of great ability, and a

was well known throughout the city.

JOHN STEWART, Commissioner,

John Stewart, Esq., Commissioner,&lt;/